GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1282
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
CULTIVATION OF BT. RICE
Krishnadas Shri N.N.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some private companies have proposed to start cultivation of Bio-Technology/BT rice in certain parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any private company has got the necessary approval to start the cultivation of Bio-Technology/BT rice in any parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): No private company has been allowed by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), the competent authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to start the commercial cultivation of BT rice in the country. However, GEAC has permitted experimental field trials on BT rice at 11 locations during Rabi 2007 to M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Ltd. (MAHYCO) to generate bio-safety and other related data.